

Message Text

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INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJ: APRIL 13 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. BERNARD GWERTZMAN OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT
ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS EXPECTED VANCE MISSION TO
SOUTHERN AFRICA AND SOVIET UNION TO PRODUCE NO MORE THAN
MODEST RESULTS. "DESPITE LIMITED EXPECTATIONS, TRIP IS
LIKELY TO BE ONE OF MR. VANCE'S MOST GRUELING AND DIFFICULT;
GWERTZMAN OBSERVED. TIMES CORRESPONDENT SAID VANCE MISSION
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HAS BEEN BURDENED BY OTHER PROBLEMS -- "WHAT SOME SEE AS
WEAKENING OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATURE ABROAD AND DISAGREE-
MENTS WITHIN ADMINISTRATION. IN RECENT DAYS, SOME WHITE
HOUSE OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN PRIVATELY COMPLAINING TO SOME
JOURNALISTS ABOUT ABILITY OF MR. VANCE AND SOME OF HIS
AIDES TO DEAL WITH RUSSIANS. MAIN CRITICISM APPEARS TO BE
THAT MR. VANCE AND HIS TOP AIDES, INCLUDING MARSHALL D.

SHULMAN, HIS SENIOR SOVIET ADVISER, ARE OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT ACHIEVING STRATEGIC ARMS ACCORD AND ARE NOT PREPARED TO PRESS RUSSIANS HARD ENOUGH ABOUT THEIR MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN HORN OF AFRICA AND ABOUT OTHER NEW SOVIET MOVES. WHITE HOUSE AIDES HAVE COMPLAINED THAT MR. VANCE AND MR.

SHULMAN, IN EFFECT, UNDERCUT TOUGH SPEECH GIVEN BY MR. CARTER LAST MONTH AT WAKE FOREST, N.C., BY HAVING MR. SHULMAN CALL SOVIET EMBASSY AND ADVISE OFFICIALS THERE TO SEND ENTIRE TEXT OF SPEECH TO MOSCOW SO THAT SOVIET OFFICIALS WOULD BE AWARE OF CONCILIATORY PARTS IN IT AS WELL AS SECTIONS EMPHASIZED IN PRESS. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WERE ANNOYED, IN TURN, THAT SPEECH, WRITTEN BY NSC STAFF, WAS NOT SHOWN TO THEM IN ADVANCE FOR SUGGESTIONS." GWERTZMAN SAID DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN VANCE AND BRZEZINSKI OVER HOW FORCEFULLY TO LINK SALT AND OTHER ISSUES HAVE BEEN APPARENT FOR SOME TIME. PRIVATELY, HE SAID, AIDES TO BOTH OFFICIALS "NOW COMPLAIN ABOUT THE OTHER'S STYLE AND APPROACH." GWERTZMAN SAID THERE ARE ABOUT FIVE MAJOR ISSUES HOLDING UP CONCLUSION OF SALT TWO AGREEMENT AND VANCE HAS STATED IN ADVANCE THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO NARROW AT LEAST SOME OF THEM. "AMERICAN HOPE IS THAT IF TALKS ARE PRODUCTIVE, ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE MADE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS IN U.S. IN LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE, DURING SPECIAL SESSION OF U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON DISARMAMENT.... SOME OF MR. VANCE'S ADVISERS WERE UNHAPPY UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH HAVING MOSCOW TRIP PRECEDED BY AFRICAN MISSION SINCE IT HAS TAKEN HIM OUT OF WASHINGTON IN IMPORTANT DAYS WHEN MR. CARTER WOULD BE EXPECTED TO MAKE DECISIONS RELATING TO POSSIBLE NEW PROPOSALS ON STRATEGIC ARMS."

2. JOHN VINOCUR OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED FROM BONN THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAS MADE CLEAR HIS FEELING THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND WEST GERMANY HAVE COME UNDER HEAVY STRESS, BUT SCHMIDT SAYS HE WELCOMES CARTER'S DECISION TO DEFER PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON WEAPONS. VINOCUR SAID SCHMIDT ALSO GAVE MOST DEFINITE PUBLIC OUTLINE TO DATE ON BONN'S CONDITIONS FOR PERMITTING DEPLOYMENT OF NEUTRON WEAPONS HERE, SAYING THAT IT DEPENDED ON DECISION BY NATO AND ON ASSURANCES THAT DEVICES WOULD NOT BE STATIONED ONLY ON WEST GERMAN SOIL.

3. ARTHUR COX, IN APRIL 2 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON SOVIET BACKFIRE BOMBER TOUCHED OFF A CONTINUING EXCHANGE WITH COLUMNIST GEORGE WILL. SINCE COX'S ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED, WILL IN APRIL 6 COLUMN ATTACKED HIS CONTENTION THAT BACKFIRE IS NOT A STRATEGIC WEAPON. THAT COLUMN, IN TURN, INSPIRED REBUTTING LETTERS TO EDITOR BY BOTH COX

AND HERBERT SCOVILLE, FORMER CIA OFFICIAL NOW WITH ARMS CONTROL ASSOCIATION. LATEST SALVO IN WHAT WILL CALLS "THIS AGREEABLE TEMPEST" WAS HIS APRIL 13 COLUMN IN WASHINGTON POST ASSERTING THAT "SCOVILLE'S BALD ASSERTION THAT BACKFIRE CANNOT RETURN TO SOVIET BASES AFTER STRIKING TARGETS IN U.S. IS MISLEADING BECAUSE BACKFIRE CAN BE REFUELED, AND IT IS IRRELEVANT BECAUSE BACKFIRE CAN

STRIKE U.S. AND LAND IN THIRD COUNTRY, SUCH AS CUBA. (MANY U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBERS COUNTED IN SALT ALSO WOULD LAND IN THIRD COUNTRIES. NO U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBERS CAN RETURN TO U.S. AFTER STRIKE AGAINST SOVIET UNION WITHOUT REFUELING.) HE SAID COX'S "MOST REVEALING ARGUMENT CONSISTS OF QUOTING SOVIET STATEMENT THAT 'TO RAISE SUCH UNCLASSIFIED

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QUESTIONS WOULD LEAD TO SITUATION WHERE THERE WILL BE NO AGREEMENT AT ALL.' AND THERE YOU HAVE ADMINISTRATION'S NEGOTIATING POSTURE. SOVIETS DETERMINE AGENDA FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND THEN SUBSTANCE OF AGREEMENTS BECAUSE THEY KNOW ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES THAT ALMOST ANY AGREEMENT IS PREFERABLE TO NO AGREEMENT. FINAL ARGUMENT THAT WILL BE HEARD FROM ADMINISTRATION BEFORE SENATE REJECTS SALT AGREEMENT WILL BE: THIS IS BETTER THAN NOTHING. BY CONSIDERABLE MARGIN, SENATE WILL DISAGREE."

4. ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK, IN THEIR SYNDICATED COLUMN IN WASHINGTON POST, SAID "LIMIT ON EXPORTING U.S.-PRODUCED ENRICHED URANIUM COMES OUT OF NEW NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION ACT, WITH THIS UNINTENDED RESULT: SOVIET NUCLEAR POWER BECOMES PREEMINENT. SINCE BREEDER REACTOR TECHNOLOGY IS REGARDED BY OIL-STARVED EUROPE AS VITAL TO FUTURE ENERGY NEEDS, OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES MAY TURN EASTWARD FOR THEIR ENRICHED URANIUM AND TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE."

5. WILLIAM SAFIRE, IN NEW YORK TIMES ESSAY TITLED "READING ARBATOV'S MIND," SAID TWO FACTIONS CONTENDING FOR PRESIDENT'S MIND ARE "WOODY WOODPECKER FACTION, LED BY ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI AND FEW DIEHARD COLD WARRIORS," AND "MR. SOFTEE FACTION, OSTENSIBLY LED BY SECRETARY VANCE AND PAUL WARNKE BUT MASTERMINDED BY PROF. MARSHALL SHULMAN." SAFIRE SUGGESTED THAT GEORGI ARBATOV, KREMLIN'S LEADING AMERICANOLOGIST, WHEN ASKED BY HIS SUPERIORS HOW THEY COULD HELP "SOFTIES TRIUMPH OVER WOODPECKERS IN BATTLE FOR CARTER'S MIND," WOULD RESPOND "SOVIET FIRMNESS" ARBATOV, SAFIRE WROTE, WOULD REASON: "INSTEAD OF DISCOURAGING SOFTIES, IT GOADS THEM TO GREATER CONCESSIONS. THEY CANCELED B-1 BOMBER, LIMITED THEIR CRUISE MISSILES, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND WE HELD FIRM; AS RESULT, THEY CANCELED THEIR NEUTRON BOMB."

6. SYNDICATED COLUMNIST VICTOR ZORZA, IN WASHINGTON POST, SAID "INFORMATION ABOUT MR. CARTER'S INTENTION TO CANCEL PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON BOMB CAME FROM THOSE WHO WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT, BY DETERRING DECISION, HE WOULD AT LEAST GIVE THEM ANOTHER CHANCE TO PRESS FOR GOING AHEAD WITH PRODUCTION. THEY HAVE WON THAT CHANCE --

WHICH MEANS THAT MOSCOW WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY WHETHER IT OUGHT TO MAKE CONCESSIONS REQUESTED BY MR. CARTER, WHILE NATO WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER MORE SERIOUSLY MR. CARTER'S FUTURE REQUESTS FOR POLITICAL SUPPORT." CHRISTOPHER

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